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THE
BALLADS OF
THE FOUR SEASONS

By
ARTHUR BLISS

NOVELLO

ARTHUR BLISS

THE BALLADS OF
THE FOUR SEASONS
FOR VOICE AND PIANO

FROM THE POEMS OF LI PO

5s 0d

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SPRING

The lovely Lo-foh* of the land of Chin,
Is plucking mulberry leaves by the blue water.
On the green boughs her white arms gleam,
And the bright sun shines upon her scarlet dress.
'My silkworms' says she, 'are hungry, I must go,
Tarry not with your five horses, Prince, I pray!'

*Lo-foh is the heroine of a popular ballad, which was already old at Li Po's time, and which served as the basis of the present poem.

SUMMER

On the Mirror Lake three hundred li around
Gaily the lotus lilies bloom.
She gathers them—Queen Hsi-shih, in Maytime !
A multitude jostles on the bank, watching.
Her boat turns back without waiting the moonrise,
And glides away to the house of the amorous Yueh King.

AUTUMN

The moon is above the city of Chang-an,
From ten thousand houses comes the sound of cloth-pounding*;
The sad Autumn wind blows, and there is no end
To my thought of you beyond the Jewel Gate Pass—
When will the barbarian foe be vanquished,
And you, my beloved, return from the far battlefield ?

*Cloth-pounding is the ironing part in the old-fashioned Chinese laundering process. On account of the hardness of the wooden stand and mallet employed for it, the pounding produces a shrill metallic sound.

WINTER

The courier will depart on the morrow for the front.
All night she sews a soldier's jacket.
Her fingers, plying the needle, are numb with cold;
Scarce can she hold the icy scissors.
At last the work is done; she sends it a long, long way,
Oh ! how many days before it reaches him in Lin-tao ?

Li Po

*English verse by Shigeyoshi Obata,
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E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York*



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THE BALLADS OF THE FOUR SEASONS

1. Spring

ARTHUR BLISS

Allegretto grazioso $\text{J}=88$

VOICE PIANO

Ped. * *simile*

mf

The

Ped. * *Ped.*

love - ly Lo - foh of the land of Chin, Is

3

Sheet music for 'Plucking Mulberry Leaves' in G major, 2/4 time. The vocal part (top) has lyrics: 'pluck - - - ing mul - ber - ry leaves by the blue'. The piano part (bottom) consists of three staves: treble, bass, and middle. The treble staff features eighth-note chords. The bass staff features eighth-note chords. The middle staff features eighth-note chords.

wa - ter.

f

p

Ped.

simile

A musical score for two voices and piano. The top staff shows a soprano vocal line with lyrics "On the green boughs her". The middle staff shows a piano accompaniment with eighth-note chords. The bottom staff shows a basso continuo line with sustained notes and bassoon entries.

white_ arms_ gleam,

And the bright_ sun_

3 3

shines up - on her scar - let dress.

p semplice e deliberamente

‘My silk-worms’ says she, ‘are hun-gry, I must go.’

pp

mf a tempo

Tar - ry not with your five hor - ses, Prince, I

p

Re. * *Re.* * *Re.* *

poco rit.

pray!

simile

Re. * *Re.* *

pp

2. Summer

ARTHUR BLISS

Moderato $\text{♩} = 76$

f

p

mf

simile

On the Mir - ror Lake three

hun - dred li* a - round Gai - ly the

*li pronounced lee

10 - - - tus lil - ies bloom.

p

mf

mf

fp

f

8

Hsi - shih*, in May - - time!

* Hsi-shih pronounced Tsee-shee (not too much 'T')

mf

A mul - ti - tude

3

3

mf

jost - les on the bank,

*poco a poco dim.**poco rit.*

18

8

a tempo

mf

Her boat turns back with-

poco a poco rall.

out wait - ing the moon - rise, And glides a -

, *p deliberamente* way to the house of the am-or-ous Yu - eh* King.

largamente dim. pp

3. Autumn

ARTHUR BLISS

Vivace $\text{J} = 120$ *martellato*

ff
con Ped.

lunga Lento $\text{J} = 50$

fz
pp

p
The moon is a - bove the cit - y of — Chang - an,

3

From ten thousand hous - es comes the sound of cloth - pound-ing;

ff

Vivace

Lento *p*

lunga

The sad Au-tumn wind

fz

pp

blows, — and — there — is no end — To my

Vivace

thought of you be - yond the Jew - el Gate Pass-

ff

When — will — the

ff

simile

bar - bar - ian foe be van - - - - quished,

And you, my be - lov -

ed, re - turn from the far -

rall.

bat - tle - field?

4. Winter

ARTHUR BLISS

Alla marcia $\text{J}=112$

The cour-i-er will de-

part on the mor-row for the front.

mf

All night she

sews a sol - dier's jack - et.

marcato

mp

Her fin - gers,

mf

ply - ing the nee - dle, — are numb — with

8

s

cold; Scarce can she hold _____ the

i - cy scis - - sors.

sub.f

mp

At last the

work is done; _____ she sends it a long,— long

meno mosso

way,

Oh!

Oh! how ma - ny days be -

fore it reach-es him in Lin - - - tao?*

* Lin-tao pronounced Lin-tow (as in 'prow')



SONGS by MODERN COMPOSERS

Bliss, Arthur	Auvergnat	E-G#
Bruce, M. Campbell	The Enchantress	G-G
Brent-Smith, A.	The Shepherdess	D-G
	Paradise Songs:	
	<i>Once in a dream</i>	D-G
	<i>I heard the songs of Paradise</i>	D-G
	<i>The Tree of Life</i>	D-G
	<i>I saw the four-fold river flow</i>	E-G
	<i>I hope to see these things again</i>	E-G
	Five Spring Songs:	
	<i>Diaphenia</i>	E - G
	<i>Lay a garland on my hearse</i>	E-G
	<i>What thing is love</i>	D-G
	<i>Weep you no more, sad fountains</i>	F-G#
	<i>Now the lusty spring is seen</i>	D-A
	Three Elizabethan Songs:	
	<i>Fire! Fire!</i>	D-G
	<i>Sweet, stay awhile</i>	E-G
	<i>Sigh no more, ladies</i>	F-A
	<i>Somebody fetch my flute</i>	G-E
	<i>Come away, death</i>	D-G
	<i>O mistress mine</i>	E-F#
	<i>The Seal's Lullaby</i>	B - F
	<i>A Cradle Song (O men from the fields)</i>	C-F
	<i>I loved a lass</i>	C-F
	<i>The Mad Maid's Song</i>	D-F
	<i>The Wakening (On a time the amorous Silvy)</i>	C-F
	Five Songs, Op. 5:	
	<i>O come, soft rest of cares!</i>	C-B -
	<i>Stay, O sweet and do not rise</i>	B#-A
	<i>Fain would I change that note</i>	C#-G#
	<i>My love in her attire</i>	C-A#
	<i>Love not me for comely grace</i>	C-G
	Four Songs:	
	<i>So sweet love seemed</i>	F-F
	<i>Elegy</i>	C-G
	<i>Laus Deo</i>	E-G#
	<i>Love on my heart</i>	F#-F#
	Four Shakespeare Songs:	
	<i>The lover and his lass</i>	E - F
	<i>Where the bee sucks</i>	E - E -
	<i>When daisies pied</i>	C-G
	<i>When icicles hang</i>	D-G
	Invitation in Autumn	D-G
	Fair Helen	D-G
	Four Shakespeare Songs: Set 1:	
	<i>Full Fathom five</i>	D-E
	<i>Come away, death</i>	D-E
	<i>O mistress mine</i>	C-F
	<i>Tell me, where is fancy bred</i>	C-F
	Four Shakespeare Songs: Set II:	
	<i>Take, O take those lips</i>	E - F
	<i>When icicles hang</i>	B-F#
	<i>Who is Sylvia?</i>	C-C
	<i>Under the Greenwood tree</i>	E - E -
	<i>My true love hath my heart</i>	D-F
	<i>Willy drowned in Yarrow</i>	D-F
	<i>When Mary goes walking</i>	C-F
	<i>Christmas Day</i>	D-E
	<i>Elsewhere</i>	B-F#
	<i>Put a rosebud on her lips</i>	C-F
	<i>Saint Govan</i>	C-F
	<i>The Sentry</i>	C-F
	<i>In Youth is pleasure</i>	E - A -
	<i>The Constant Lover</i>	E - G
	<i>Willie drowned in Yarrow</i>	C-E -
	<i>The Wind on the Wold</i>	D - F

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Music

